

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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BPS Seeks Item Writers for Ambulatory Care Specialty

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS), an agency whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills at the advanced practice level, is seeking to identify pharmacists interested in contributing to the bank of questions for its new Ambulatory Care Pharmacy specialty examination. The recently-formed Specialty Council on Ambulatory Care Pharmacy is working with BPS' psychometric consultants at the Professional Examination Service to generate several hundred specialty level questions related to the entire spectrum of ambulatory care pharmacy practice. Those questions, and the resulting examination itself, will reflect task and knowledge statements identified by the Role Delineation Study for the specialty, which was previously conducted www.bpsweb.org/resources/ambulatory.cfm. Questions will be specifically keyed to the Content Outline rubrics for the Ambulatory Care specialty which resulted from that study. That document will be the basis for soliciting and classifying actual exam questions and will be made available to all individuals who are participating in the writing project. This same information will be included in the public Content Outline for the Ambulatory Care Specialty Examination which will be released soon.

Pharmacists with training and experience in ambulatory care practice who are interested in contributing draft items to this process should identify themselves to BPS and the Specialty Council. That can be accomplished by sending an e-mail to the address below, *including full name, mailing address, e-mail and telephone contacts, and any areas of particular expertise related to ambulatory care pharmacy practice.*

Send this information to: jmarshall@aphanet.org.

Potential contributors will be identified by the Specialty Council as needed from this pool and provided webinar training on the Remote Item Writing system used by the Professional Examination Service. At that time, they will be authorized to submit questions online, which will be reviewed by the process, and a feedback loop established. This will be followed by live Item

Development Workshops at which individuals who contributed items may have an opportunity to work in groups with Specialty Council members to further refine the items. Individuals who plan to take the initial specialty examination will of course not be able to participate in the review and revision process beyond the early stages, due to potential conflict of interest. But all pharmacists knowledgeable about ambulatory care are encouraged to contribute questions to the process. It is those pharmacists who are most familiar with the clinical practice situations that make for the best test items.

The **Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS)** is an autonomous Division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), founded in January 1976 to recognize specialties and certify pharmacists in specialized areas of pharmacy practice. Six specialties are currently recognized by BPS, including: 1) nuclear pharmacy, since 1978; 2) nutrition support pharmacy, since 1988; 3) pharmacotherapy, since 1988; 4) psychiatric pharmacy, since 1992; and 5) oncology pharmacy, since 1996. The sixth BPS specialty, focused on ambulatory care pharmacy, was approved in June 2009, and is scheduled for its first examination in 2011. More than 9000 pharmacist specialists are currently certified by BPS.
